

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A lockset, comprising:  
a lock mechanism having an aperture;  
an operator; and  
a turn-button mounted in said operator, said turn-button including:  
5 a head portion; and  
a shaft extending from said head portion, said shaft having a leading helical end  
portion that engages said aperture of said lock mechanism.
2. (Original) The lockset of claim 1, said leading helical end portion having a  
plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft  
toward a tip end of said shaft.
3. (Original) The lockset of claim 2, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces  
smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.
4. (Previously presented) A turn-button for a lockset, comprising:  
a head portion; and  
a shaft extending from said head portion, said shaft having a leading helical end tip.
5. (Previously presented) The turn-button of claim 4, said leading helical end tip  
having a plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said  
shaft toward a tip end of said shaft.

6. (Original) The turn-button of claim 5, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.

7. (Previously presented) A lockset comprising:  
a lock mechanism including an actuator having an aperture;  
an operator;  
a turn-button mounted in said operator, said turn-button including a shaft; and  
5 means for facilitating self-alignment of said shaft of said turn-button with said aperture of said lock mechanism as said shaft of said turn-button is inserted into said aperture of said lock mechanism.

8. (Previously Presented) The lockset of claim 1, said lock mechanism including a rotatable actuator having said aperture, wherein once said leading helical end portion engages said aperture, a rotation of said turn-button effects a corresponding rotation of said rotatable actuator of said lock mechanism.

9. (Previously Presented) The lockset of claim 7, said means including a plurality of leading helical surfaces that taper and twist from a transition line of said shaft toward a tip end of said shaft.

10. (Previously Presented) The lockset of claim 9, wherein said plurality of leading helical surfaces smoothly transition between adjacent helical surfaces.